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219

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 30 November 1977

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

State Dept. review completed

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 30 November 1977.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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RHODESIA: More Blacks in Military

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[] The Rhodesian Government of Prime Minister Smith has implemented a crash program aimed at significantly increasing the number of blacks in the security forces. The program is one of a number of measures announced in September that are aimed at meeting the military's increasing manpower needs. The stepped-up recruitment of blacks, however, is a sharp departure from previous policy and could be used to strengthen Smith's defense of his decision to seek an internal settlement.

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[] The Rhodesian Government has drawn the majority of its security forces from a relatively small base of skilled whites because it has a policy of keeping the proportion of blacks to whites in the security forces in favor of the whites. Blacks make up about half of the approximately 20,000 soldiers on active duty and about a quarter of the police force.

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[] The measures announced in September extended the required military service for prospective college students from 18 months to two years, required men with continual deferments to join a reserve unit, and offered monthly bonuses for regulars who extend for one year beyond their required 18-month tour or who reenlist if they have completed their tour.

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[] The most significant measure over the long term, however, is likely to be the push for additional black recruits for the army. The Rhodesian press has begun to publicize the stepped-up recruitment of blacks and recently claimed that some 400 per month are being trained. Although we do not have reliable figures, the callup rate for whites is probably less than that. The government has also opened officers' training to blacks and recently commissioned the first group of black officers. The Rhodesian press also recently reported that a policy for drafting blacks will soon be announced; only volunteers are taken now.

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[] An increased flow of blacks into the military will ease the demand on skilled whites and narrow the gap in numbers between blacks and whites in the security forces. Most important, however, the Smith regime can use an increase of blacks in the security forces to bolster its long-held argument that it commands the loyalty of Rhodesia's blacks, and thereby strengthen the government's ability to defend its decision to seek an internal settlement.

[] On the other hand, in the event of a settlement based on the UK-US proposals, a large black force, capably trained and loyal to the state rather than any individual leader, could act as a buffer against those guerrilla forces who would be integrated into the army of an independent Zimbabwe. []

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POLAND: Grain Imports May Soar

[] /Poland reportedly hopes to buy [] grain in the marketing year ending on 30 June 1978. []

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[] //International grain traders continue to forecast Polish grain purchases at 6 to 7 million tons, the amounts we projected in late September. The new, higher Polish import requirements probably reflect a downward revision in the size of the domestic potato crop as well as Warsaw's belief that a more expansionary livestock policy is required if the widening gap between meat production and retail demands is to be even partially closed. A major decline in livestock numbers in 1976 had cut meat supplies drastically.//

[] //Just prior to the harvest, Polish officials had expected grain output to reach 22 million tons but now do not expect production to exceed 19 million tons. In 1976, Poland produced 20.9 million tons of grain, somewhat below average because of a drought.//

[] //A Ministry of Agriculture official said that this year's potato crop was a "disaster" because excessive moisture led to disease and rot. He estimated the harvest at no more than 44 million tons, compared with nearly 50 million tons last year. Normally, about 55 percent of Poland's potato crop is used as feed for livestock, primarily hogs. Unless non-feed consumption of potatoes is cut, less than 50 percent of this year's crop will be available for feed, adding an equivalent estimated 2 million tons to this year's grain import requirement.//

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] //Hard-currency shortages have forced Poland to seek grain in countries willing to finance most of these purchases. Of the 10 million tons reportedly being sought, about 8.5 million tons--worth about \$900 million--must be purchased in the West, with the remainder coming from the USSR and other East European countries.//

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[REDACTED] //Total purchases from the US, including those under Commodity Credit Corporation credits, probably will exceed 3 million tons. About 3.3 million tons have already been bought in other Western countries, more than two-thirds financed with credits. Poland is searching for the remainder and is pressing the US for additional credits under more generous terms than those offered by the CCC.//

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[REDACTED] //Even if Poland is able to purchase 10 million tons of grain, obtaining delivery will pose serious logistic problems. During calendar year 1976, Polish imports of around 7 million tons of grain and fodder placed port operations under severe stress.//

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[REDACTED] //At that time, Poland's three main grain ports--Gdynia, Gdansk, and Szczecin--were reportedly working at capacity and handling a total of 20,000 tons of grain per 24-hour day--10,000 tons a day short of what would be required should 10 million tons of grain, as well as expected imports of soybeans and soybean meal, be imported. Other Polish ports--particularly Kolobrzeg and Swinoujscie--have some grain-handling facilities, but the grain facilities at these ports are limited by obsolete handling equipment.//

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[REDACTED] //Substantially increasing imports without a commensurate decline or shift in the need to process other commodities through Polish ports would lead to severe port congestion, such as in 1976. Poland may attempt to import much of the additional grain by rail from West European ports using the back haul of its coal trains. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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ROMANIA: More Worker Unrest

[] Coal miners in Romania's Jiu Valley are apparently still restive following their strike in early August. A New York Times journalist who visited the valley in mid-November recently told a US diplomat in Bucharest that the miners are becoming impatient over the government's attempts to deal with their grievances.

[] When President Ceausescu intervened personally to quell the strikes, he promised to review the provisions of a new pension law that had failed to increase benefits as expected, and had even cut or eliminated some annuities. Ceausescu also said he would consider complaints about inadequate housing, low-quality food, and insufficient supplies of consumer goods.

[] Since August, the regime has acted on some of the miners' grievances. It amended the new pension law, raised miners' salaries by 5 percent, guaranteed them other special benefits--such as free meals--and promised to build apartments and a new hospital and to establish more cultural and sports programs.

[] At the same time, the regime transferred hundreds of miners, presumably the malcontents, out of the valley to other jobs. It also docked the miners' take-home pay because they failed to fulfill production goals.

[redacted]

25X1 [redacted] In addition, the miners also told the journalist that the consumer goods that flooded the valley for two weeks before and after Ceausescu's most recent visit there early this month have now disappeared. They were also upset over the 2,000 soldiers the government has sent into the valley, presumably to augment the work force, as well as numbers of security personnel who are infiltrating the local work force.

25X1 [redacted] The journalist found little evidence that the miners are in contact with other groups of disaffected workers or intellectuals within the country. Details of the disturbances in August are nevertheless widely known and may have served as inspiration for other incidents. In October, there was a strike at a textile plant in Tirgu Mures in central Romania; workers there presented the same grievances as the Jiu Valley miners.

25X1 [redacted] Ceausescu's personal prestige is clearly engaged in the Jiu Valley situation. It will be difficult for him to shift the blame completely to subordinates, such as the three deputy ministers of mines, petroleum, and geology, who evidently lost their jobs in early November. He shows little inclination, however, to propitiate the miners by significantly raising their standard of living. He may be concerned that to do so would create a bad precedent. As a consequence, more trouble from the miners in this traditional area of worker unrest is likely.

[redacted]

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TURKEY: Search for Materiel

25X1 [redacted] *//Turkey wants to buy old tanks and combat aircraft from its NATO allies and to produce more spare parts in order to offset the deterioration of its military equipment. Over the long term, however, Turkey will have to depend on US grant aid and credits to modernize its weapons and equipment. The delay by the US in approving the Defense Cooperation Agreement and a shortage of foreign exchange needed to purchase arms have handicapped the modernization plan. The Turks raised the issue of the US delay at a recent NATO meeting in order to underscore the seriousness of their predicament and the potential impact on NATO's military capability if Turkey's materiel readiness does not improve.//*

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[redacted] At a NATO Defense Review Committee meeting earlier this month, Turkey specifically asked for older F-104 combat aircraft and M-48 tanks being phased out by other NATO countries. The F-104s presumably would replace some of Turkey's old F-100s and F-102s most affected by a shortage of spare parts and inadequate maintenance. Some estimates indicate that the air force has had to ground more than half its frontline combat aircraft, seriously curtailing training for wartime missions. West Germany recently turned over two F-104s to Turkey.//

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[redacted] //The army reportedly is seeking to buy industrial equipment--primarily metal-working and metal-cutting machinery--to manufacture spare parts. [redacted]

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[redacted] Some older industrial equipment is available for the army's use because of a current slowdown in the industrial sector, but this equipment probably would not significantly alleviate the spare parts shortage. [redacted]

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THAILAND: Amnesty Decree

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[redacted] Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan has persuaded the military National Policy Council to grant amnesty to several officers imprisoned for their part in the abortive coup attempt in March. He is also advocating amnesty for at least some of the students jailed when bloody rioting at Thammasat University ended parliamentary government in October 1976.

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[redacted] The amnesty decree for the officers will be issued on the King's birthday, 5 December, a traditional occasion for pardoning convicts. The government is planning an elaborate celebration this year, and Kriangsak clearly is trying to use the occasion to create an atmosphere of national reconciliation and reunification.

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[REDACTED] //Amnesty for the students is facing stronger opposition in the military council. Although public pressure for their release has been building since the announcement of intended amnesty for the coup group, the government wants to defer action in their case until the trial now under way is concluded.//

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[REDACTED] //The military leadership nevertheless appears to be leaning toward the eventual pardon of at least those students who were involved only in the campus rioting. The six students charged with lese majesty--the mock hanging of the Crown Prince--if convicted can be pardoned only at the King's personal discretion.// [REDACTED]

25X1

BRIEFS

Warsaw Pact

25X1

[REDACTED] The annual meeting of Warsaw Pact defense ministers is likely to continue through tomorrow in Budapest.

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[REDACTED] Warsaw Pact defense ministers have met at least once a year since 1969; last year's conference was held in Sofia during December.

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[REDACTED] Soviet Defense Minister Ustinov is to visit Hungarian and Soviet military units in Hungary before returning to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Chad

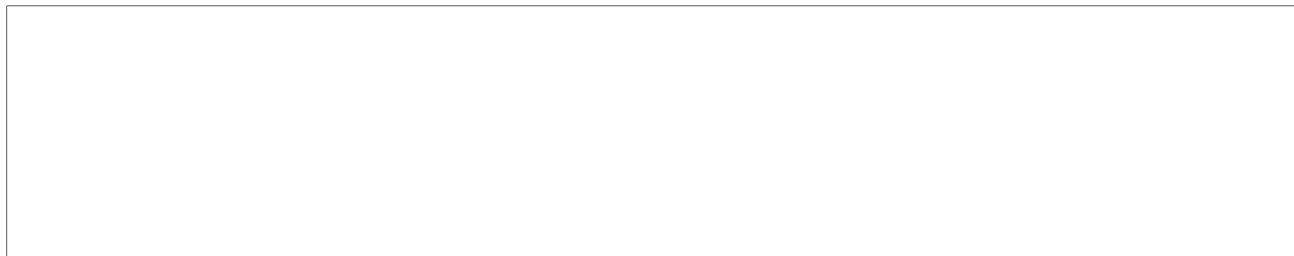
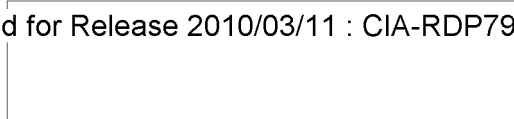
25X1 [REDACTED] //Saudi Arabia has agreed to fund Chad's purchase of some French military equipment, [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED]. France reportedly promised to provide the 25X1
equipment during Chadian Supreme Military Council Chairman
Malloum's visit to Paris last month. A French general is now in
Chad to review Chad's military needs.//

25X1 [REDACTED] The French have agreed to provide Chad with two helicopters, four transport aircraft, and equipment for a new Chadian Army mobile unit of battalion size. According to the French Ambassador to Chad, Paris hopes the US will find ways to furnish vehicles for the planned mobile unit.

25X1 [REDACTED] The Saudis have been reluctant to have Chad approach them directly for the possible transfer of US military equipment or for financing Chadian purchases of US arms, probably because Saudi Arabia does not want to be publicly identified as supporting Chad's predominantly non-Muslim government, which is combating a Muslim insurgency supported by Libya.

[REDACTED] 25X1
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Israel

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[REDACTED] The Israeli Government, the national labor union, and the manufacturers' association have agreed on a new wage package; the agreement removes a major obstacle to the success of Prime Minister Begin's new economic policy. In pushing through the agreement, the government clearly took advantage both of the current upbeat mood of the country following the visit of Egyptian President Sadat and the poor worker response this month to labor union calls for strikes.

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[REDACTED] The package includes a supplementary cost-of-living adjustment in January and a bonus to offset 70 percent of the inflation that occurs in the last quarter of 1977. Despite some rank-and-file unhappiness, the agreement should hold and thus ease fears that inflationary wage demands would cancel out government efforts to hold down personal consumption while dropping restrictions on foreign exchange, cutting subsidies, and removing other controls on market forces.

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[REDACTED] With extra money in their pockets at the beginning of the year, workers may be less inclined to push hard at the general wage negotiations scheduled for the private sector in January and for public employees in April.

Indonesia

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[REDACTED] One US citizen was killed and another wounded in a terrorist attack yesterday on an Indonesian natural gas field in North Sumatra. The terrorists, apparently members of the National Liberation Front for Aceh, avoided firing on Indonesians and a Korean working in the same field. The front is a local rebel group, which has been operating in the region for years and which last summer made extortion demands on a US oil company that were not met. [REDACTED]

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Finland-USSR

25X1 [] Soviet Premier Kosygin will represent the USSR in Helsinki for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Finnish independence on 5 and 6 December. Such high-level recognition will add luster to President Kekkonen's virtually uncontested campaign for reelection in mid-January. At the same time, it will give Kosygin a share of the limelight usually occupied by President Brezhnev.

25X1 [] Over the years, Kosygin has developed a personal relationship with Kekkonen, making him an appropriate Soviet representative for this occasion. This will be Kosygin's second visit to Finland this year. In March, he attended the inauguration of the Loviisa nuclear power plant, which was built with Soviet technical assistance. Before that he had not been to Finland since 1968. []

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